

Jean C. King

126 North Street
Watertown, Connecticut 06795
860-916-7367
jeancking@gmail.com

My name is Jean King, I live in Watertown, and I have been a consultant on food policy issues for a number of years. From 2000 to 2008 I worked as consultant for the CT Food Policy Council and I am here to support SB 252, an act concerning the CT Food Policy Council that will help make this important group more effective in its work to address food security issues for our state.

Connecticut was the first state in the nation to establish a state Food Policy Council. The Council was established by the Legislature in 1997 and charged with advising both the Governor and the General Assembly on issues of food security in our state and on legislation that may affect the state's overall food system. Today there is at least one food policy council in 47 states and 247 food councils in the US at local, county regional and state levels. It is time for us to upgrade our council to do the most effective work on food policy for Connecticut.

The CFPC from the beginning worked across departmental boundaries to identify ways to collaborate, breaking down bureaucratic barriers to accomplish the goal of food security for all Connecticut residents. There is no one easy answer to the issues of food security — improving it is a multi-stakeholder process, with implications across many industry sectors. It takes insight, involvement and a willingness to look at solutions in a new light.

Food policy issues are concerned with: farmland preservation, food safety, child nutrition, emergency food, farmers markets, nutrition education, and anti-hunger programs. Food policy links economic development, land use planning, environmental protection and preservation, farming, national security, health, economic and urban issues.

And from the beginning we recognized that we had to bring many more people to the table than the original legislation designated. The Departments of Consumer Protection, Energy and Environment, and Economic Development are just some of those who should be part of our work. This new legislation brings them and others to the Council.

Another major lesson learned over the years is the importance of bringing together those working across the state at the local levels on these issues and sharing our information and progress. Connecticut now has many local councils and organizations working on food policy. The CFPC has taken steps to involve them all in their work over the past several years and now is the right time to formalize that in a revitalized state council.

I have attached links to 2 reports that may be of interest to you.

[CFPC Report 2001](#) Link to the Indicators Report for the CT Food Policy Report 2001

<http://www.foodpolicynetworks.org/food-policy-resources/?resource=1263>

Link to the 2018 report on food policy networks from Johns Hopkins University Center for a Livable Future